**Break down in NALCO in Orissa**

4407. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is serious breakdown in NALCO's Aluminium Plant in Orissa causing huge loss of production and quality;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some complaints of sabotage by competitors have been received in the Ministry;

(c) whether it is also a fact that import duty has been further increased on Aluminium leading to acute shortage of metal in the country; and

(d) if so, what steps the Government are taking to ease the situation and punish the culprit for sabotage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMES BAIS): (a) yes. Sir. The total loss of production on account of operational problems in the smelter of NALCO is 16639 tonnes up to the end of June, 1998.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) 4 per cent additional import duty across the board has been levied on aluminium in the Budget for the year 1998-99. However, the basic duty on aluminium scrap and waste has been lowered from 20% to 10%. There is no acute shortage of aluminium in the country.

(d) The Government have constituted an Enquiry Committee to look into the reasons for instability and failure in the potline in the Smelter of NALCO.

**Coal Deals by SAIL**

4408. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Bureau of Investigation has raised question about the coal deals carried out by SAIL, specially with regard to coal imported from Australia or any other country; and

(b) if so, what is the reply of the SAIL to C.B.I. in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) have not questioned Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) about the import of coal from Australia or any other country.

**Import of Coal by SAIL**

4409. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Ltd. is importing coal on a large scale, regularly;

(b) if so the details thereof; and

(c) at what rate SAIL is importing coal and from which companies and countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) (a) & (b) Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has been importing "Low Ash Metallurgical Coking coal (LAMCC)" of prime quality since 1978-79 as a quantitative and qualitative supplement to the indigenous coking coal to meet the total requirement of Steel Plants.

The Quantity of LAMCC, imported by SAIL, based on actual receipts at Indian Ports, during the last three years is as follows:—

| Year | Quantity in Million Tonnes |
|---|---|
| 1995-96 | 5.685 |
| 1996-97 | 6.610 |
| 1997-98 | 6.176 |

(c) The weighted average contracted Free On Board (FOB) price for LMACC during 1997-98 was US $ 53.40 PMT. Details regarding companies and countries from which coal was imported are as under:—

| Party | Country |
|---|---|
| BHP Coal Pty Ltd. | Australia |
| The Shell Company of Australia Ltd. | Australia |
| ARCO Coal Australia Inc. | Australia |
| Mount Isa Mines Ltd. | Australia |
| Advance Coal Ltd. | Australia |
| Solid Energy New Zealand Ltd. | New Zealand |